Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04657 201125 Z

52
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 RSR-01 SS-15 FILE-01 SSO-00 CCO-00

ADP-00 EUR-25 EA-11 PM-09 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08

CEA-02 AGR-20 /160 W
---------- 123205
R 201040 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3896
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4657

DEPTO 59

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP XD NP
SUBJECT: DEPSEC' S MTG WITH KING

1. WHILE DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH' S MEETING (ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO AND AMBASSADOR ALSO ATTENDED) WITH KING APRIL 19 COVERED GROUND SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH AROSE IN PRIOR CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, IT IS WORTH HIGHLIGHTING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. FOLLOWING AN EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF KING' S GRANDMOTHER, SECRETARY RUSH SAID WE VALUE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NEPAL, STATED OUR FRIENDSHIP FOR NEPAL IS CONSTANT AND DOESN' T DEPEND ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. HE WENT ON TO REVIEW FOR KING AREAS OF CONFRONTATION WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON FOUND ON WORLD SCENE WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE AND MOVES WHICH HE HAD MADE TO CHANGE SITUATION TO ONE OF NEGOTIA-TION, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF CHINA AND RUSSIA. HE

CONFIDENTIAL

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WOULD NOT CHANGE OUR POLICIES TOWARD ALLIES AND FRIENDS. INDEED NEW ERA SHOULD HELP NEPAL. IN REGARD TO INDIA HE NOTED WE WANT TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA BUT NOT AT EXPENSE OF OTHER FRIENDS IN AREA (E. G., PAKISTAN AND NEPAL).

B. KING REPLIED BY WELCOMING RELAXATION OF TENSIONS INSTITUTED BY US. HE SAID THAT DURING HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE HE HAD BEEN CONCENTRATING ON DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AS HE FELT INTERNAL STABILITY WAS BEST CONTRIBUTION NEPAL COULD MAKE TO REGIONAL STABILITY. THOUGH HE HAD NOT GIVEN MUCH ATTENTION TO NEPAL' S FOREIGN POLICY, HE COULD SAY IT WOULD NOT CHANGE FROM THAT CHALKED OUT BY HIS FATHER, KING MAHENDRA. HE SAW FRINDSHIP WITH HIS NEIGHBORS, INDIA AND CHINA, AS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY.

C. IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY' S QUESTION OF HOW KING INTERPRETED EVENTS IN SIKKIM, KING RENOIED THERE ARE TWO POINTS OF VIEW IN NEPAL: ONE, THAT IT WAS INITIATED BY INDIA, IN WHICH CASE IT WOULD AFFECT OTHERS IN AREA, AND, TWO, THAT SITUATION AROSE MORE OR LESS OUT OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS. KING WAS INCLINED TO BELIEVE IT WAS 50-50 PROPOSI-TION AND SAID NEPAL IS CLOSELY WATCHING OUTCOME TO DETERMINE ITS MEANING. SECRETARY SUGGESTED THAT THOUGH INDIA HAS EXPANSIONARY TENDENCIES, HE QUESTIONED WHETHER PRSENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SIKKIM SERVED INDIA' S LARGER INTEREST VIS- A- VIS CHINA. KING OBSERVED THAT INDIA HAS LOTS OF PROBLEMS TO OCCUPY HER WITHOUT ASKING FOR MORE, BUT HE ADMITTED THAT INDIA IS IN A BETTER POSITION TODAY TO EXECUTE WHAT SHE WANTS THAN WAS THE CASE THREE YEARS AGO, BECAUSE OF HER INCREASED SELF-CONFIDENCE.

D. ON DEVELOPMENT SIDE, SECRETARY CONGRATULATED KING ON NEPAL' S DOMESTIC ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE HE LAST VISITED NEPAL. HE COMMENTED ON WHAT HE HDD SEEN IN MORN-ING HELICOPTER TRIP IN DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS AND BRIDGES) AND AGRICULTURE AND AGREED WITH KING THIS HAD HIGH PRIORITY FOR NEPAL. HE ASKED WHAT OTHER DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES NEPAL HAD AND SPECIFICALLY HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE KING ATTACHED TO TOURISM AND INDUSTRIALI-ZATION.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

E. KING STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION AS WELL AS ROADS AND AGRICULTURE TO NEPAL. THOUGH EFFORTS ARE BEING DEVOTED TO TOURISM, HE FELT THIS WAS NOT A VERY RELAIBLE SOURCE OF INCOME WITHOUT PEACE ON THE SUBCONTINENT. WHILE NEPAL WANTED TO INDUSTRIALIZE, HE REALIZED RATE WOULD DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENT OF GREATER TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS THAN SHE NOW HAD.

F. ASKED TO COMMENT ON NEPAL- US RELATIONS, KING SAID RECENT TREND TOWARD DIRECT CONTACTS MUST BE MAINTAINED, AND NEPAL NEEDED MORE ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING ITS INFRASTRUCTURE. (NOTE: HE DID NOT MENTION KARNALI PROJECT OR CONTINUATION OF PL 480 PROGRAM.) SECRETARY RUSH NOTED IN GENERAL TERMS THAT US AID TO NEPAL WOULD BE CONTINUED, BUT MADE NO COMMENT ABOUT KIND OR MAGNITUDE. SECRETARY SISCO INTERJECTED THAT WE HAVE MAINTAINED A GOOD, FRANK DIALOGUE AND THIS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO UNDERSTANDING AND WARM, FRIENDLY RELATIONS NOT EXCELLED ANYWHERE.

G. A GENERAL DISCUSSION ON ROLE OF SMALL STATES IN AGE OF NUCLEAR PARITY LED KING TO SAY ONE OF DISADVANTAGES OF SMALL COUNTRIES SUCH AS NEPAL (OR SIKKIM) IS TO GET A HEARING ON WORLD STAGE. THEY ARE DROWNED OUT BY VOICES OF THEIR BIGGER NEIGHBORS. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR' S QUERY AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD BE TRAVELLING ANY TIME THIS YEAR TO FOSTER A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF NEPAL' S VIEWS, HE SAID HE WOULD BE GOING TO NON- ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING IN AUTUMN AND EXPECTED TO VISIT NEIGHBBORING COUUNTRIES.

2. AUDIENCE CONCLUDED ON MUTUAL EXPRESSION OF PLEASURE ABOUT SECRETARY RUSH AND SISCO' S VISIT.
RUSH

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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KATHMANDU
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